

# SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15 No. 6

[www.seil.oban.ws](http://www.seil.oban.ws)

December 11

## EDITORIAL

All the salient features and 60 % of the houses on Seil are in gaelic, yet gaelic speakers are as scarce as hen's teeth. The reason for this excursion into Gaeldom is the title of this august periodical. Recently there has been a poll conducted on the community website to ascertain the views of readers on whether the title should have an E in the middle – or not. The results of this were inconclusive with a 50/50 split. In order to clarify the issue, an email was dispatched to that Sabhail place in Skye for an official ruling, but maybe because it was in English, there was no reply. However your diligent editor managed to contact a local gaelic speaker, and her advice was that the central E was more legitimate. Thus, it shall be retained, although like a huge chunk of the gaelic language it need not be pronounced. I cite Puilladobhrain to prove my point.

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Seil & Easdale Community Council held their last public meeting of the year on Tuesday 22nd November in Easdale Island Hall.

Jane Nichols, who is leaving the area was thanked for her work as Council Secretary and Sue Vest was welcomed as the new secretary. Heather Chaplin who is moving to Oban was thanked for her time on the Council. There are now two vacancies on the Council with the next elections due after May 2012. Councillor Donald "Sky" MacIntosh who passed away recently was remembered.

## SCOTTISH WATER

Scottish Water continue to work on their improvements to the local sewage system. Once work is completed, a tanker is expected approximately every 15 days to remove sludge. The ongoing costs are being borne by Scottish Water. Dr Hannah has had contact with the Ombudsman regarding issues and individual concerns have been addressed by David Innes. A new metal fence at Pumping Station 2 has lead to discussions regarding whether it is too close to the road and whether pedestrian safety and driving visibility are affected. As the fence is on private land there is likely to be little that SECC can do, should it be considered a problem. Recent work to the drain at Cnoc A'Challtuinn is complete and appears to be fine.

## PLANNING MATTERS

There has been an application for an extension to a house on the Cuan road and planning permission granted for the Tower house at Inshaig. Planning permission for the catering trailer at Highland Arts has been refused.

## HEALTH MATTERS

There are ongoing issues with medical evacuation at Easdale. In a recent incident a potentially 2 hour evacuation took over 4 hours with Scottish Ambulance staff unwilling to travel to the island and the helicopter requested being diverted to another incident. A Navy helicopter was eventually used. Local Councillors are aware of this and other incidents and continue to seek a resolution.

## ROAD REPORT

Scottish roads have been identified as having a pothole every 55 yards, whereas English roads have a greater number. Members of the public are advised to report potholes on 01631 569160. Cnoc A'Challtuinn has been identified as being in a poor state of repair. A washout on Kilniver Hill was cleared within hours of being reported and remedial work has now taken place. The Kilniver bridge continues to be monitored with no movement recorded since the summer. There as yet no costs to the options to repair, replace or bypass the bridge and further meetings are planned regarding this and contingencies should restrictions become necessary. The siting of a bus shelter at Ellenabeich is yet to be confirmed with local opinion being welcomed. Councillor Neil MacKay spoke positively about the short and long term future of the 418 timetable.

## POLICE REPORT.

Constable Ian Young from Dalmally gave the Police Report. Witnesses are being sought re vandalism to MSP MacKenzie's car at Ellenabeich. The winter driving campaign is under way and drivers can expect a heightened presence on local roads. The public were warned about a group of travelling thieves currently operating in the area. They are very bold and have been observed during crimes but not reported as they have not appeared suspicious. Ian Young stressed the importance of reporting any suspicious activity to the police. An expensive car was recently stolen from Dalmally by an individual who removed the keys from the kitchen while the house was occupied. The advice is even in "safe" rural areas to ensure that doors are locked. Internet scams continue. The advice is not to respond to requests for money and not to open attachments from unknown senders. Suspect emails should be reported to the police.

## VHF UPGRADE

Funding is being sought in Oban to upgrade VHF to digital CCTV which will benefit outlying areas as suspect vehicles travelling through Oban will be identified. It was suggested that with the number of miles of single track road, the Atlantic Bridge would be a good location for such a camera. This was acknowledged as a good idea, should finances and logistics (such as storage of recording equipment) be resolved.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING

Heather and Seumas recently attended a Community Engagement Meeting. The focus was on increased communication between the council and local communities and appeared positive. The Community Council; continue to be in discussion with planners regarding the Local Development Plan.

## Seil Natural History Group online website

I would like to bring to your attention the continued development of the SNHG website and improvements that have taken place during 2011. The start of the year heralded changes that were to influence our online presence as MSN spaces, our original choice of provider decided to terminate operations. I will not at this time express my views of Microsoft as my report here might also be jeopardised. (editor's note—we operate a broad church here and will include anything that is not the result of phone tapping). It was therefore essential to find another easy to use site that gave us the potential to grow and yet have the independence and consistency that was required.

Wordpress.com was the result of this decision and since February 2011 the website has gone from strength to strength. The statistics clearly show that improvement, from 190 views at the beginning of the year to 420 views in November 2011. This represents a 220 % increase this year.

The SNHG website offers something for everyone with over 2000 digital photos of wildlife, video footage of our events, a schedule of walks & talks, species of the month, links to local sites, weather and tidal information, diaries, local wildlife tour operators, and a facebook link.

To view the SNHG website click on :-

[www.snhg.org.uk](http://www.snhg.org.uk)

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## HALL NEWS

### LOTTERY RESULTS

| November            | December           |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| £50 John MacFarlane | £50 Wendy Dugdale  |
| £10 Irene Breslin   | £10 Barbara Smith  |
| £10 Anne Campbell   | £10 Margaret Brown |
| £10 John Nicol      | £10 Colina Graham  |

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## THANKS (1)

### PLAY AREA FUNDRAISER DANCE

A very successful event which raised £518 for the Play Area Fund. Thanks are due to everyone who contributed to making the dance such a success, particularly to Fiona MacLarty and the other organisers, to the great bands and to everyone who supported the event by coming along and having a good time.

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## NEW YEAR CEILIDH DANCE.

Come along and celebrate the New Year in style in Seil Hall on MONDAY 2nd January—tickets will be £8.

## THANKS (2)

### CHRISTMAS FAIR 4th DECEMBER

This was another great success, raising approximately £950 to be divided between the Play Park Fund and the Easdale School Parent Group. Many thanks to everyone who helped on the day, and/or gave donations of baking and raffle prizes. **Put a note in your diaries that there is likely to be another one in August 2012.**

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## CRAFT WORKSHOPS/DEMONSTRATIONS

We have been offered the chance of workshops/demonstrations on crafts—e.g. Silk painting and felting. Please contact [kimrowswell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kimrowswell@yahoo.co.uk) or 300040 if you would be interested.

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## CORRECTION

Fortunately it is not often that we make serious mistakes—apart from the odd mis-spelling, but in the last issue we had a report on the participation of Steve Aldwinckle and Malcolm MacKenzie in the Mull Half Marathon. Well unfortunately Malcolm MacKenzie (if there is such a person in the area) did not participate in this prestigious event. However **Malcolm MacKechnie** did, and to him and all his friends, relations, and sponsors, we apologise for this mistake.

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## IMMINENT CHANGE

Mrs Anderson is retiring as headteacher at Easdale Primary School at Christmas. The school is holding a Family Ceilidh on **Saturday 17th December from 7pm till 9.30pm in Seil Island Hall**, to which everyone is welcome. If you would like to donate any money for her retrial gift, please send it to the school office.

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## DAMAGE LIMITATION on the GOLF COURSE

Due to extensive damage to the fairways, and particularly to the greens, caused by irresponsible owners allowing their dogs to run free, the decision has been taken that from the issuing of this statement, no dogs will be allowed on the Golf Course, unless under proper control, and on a lead.

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## THANKS (3)

A lively party was hosted by Catherine Shaw and Isobelle Smith at Winterton on the evening of Friday 2nd December. All enjoyed mulled wine and nibbles in aid of Friends of Oban Hospice - "Light up a Life". The sum of £410 was raised and the Friends thank all who contributed.

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## COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGAIN

Due to the later arrival of the Community Council material there was insufficient room on page 1 for everything so the date of their next meeting has a different slot from the rest of the stuff.

To make sure that it is in the forefront of your attention - **TUESDAY 24th JANUARY at 7.30pm in SEIL HALL.**

And other contributions for the next issue by then also please.